

Message Text

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14

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JUSTICE FOR INS COMMISSIONER CHAPMAN

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR, MX

SUBJECT: EXCELSIOR ARTICLE ON RECENT NEWSDAY STORY ON WEAPONS/
HEROIN EXCHANGE BY MEXICAN TRAFFICKERS

1. SUMMARY: AG OJEDA PAULLADA INTERRUPTED THE PROCEEDINGS DURING LENGTHY MEETING WITH TOP USG OFFICIALS (AMB VANCE, US EMB, DEA, AND NAU) ON 26 JANUARY TO EXPRESS HIS GRAVE CONCERN ON THE CONTINUING CRITICAL NEWS RELEASES EMANATING FROM US PRESS QUOTING USG SOURCES. THE AG FURTHER STATED THAT CONTINUED RELEASES, WHETHER FACTUAL OR UNSUBSTANTIATED, PUBLISHED FOR WHATEVER REASON, WOULD ONLY PRODUCE PROBLEMS AND COULD SERIOUSLY DAMAGE OUR UNPRECEDENTED HIGH LEVEL OF BILATERAL COOPERATIVE EFFORTS. END OF SUMMARY.

2. THE FOLLOWING ARTICLE APPEARED ON PAGE THREE OF EXCELSIOR CIRCULATED ON 26 JANUARY IN MEXICO CITY. WE RECOGNIZE THE NAME OF GERALD O'CONNOR AS BEING SIMILAR TO THAT OF INS OFFICER WHO IS DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF EL PASO INTELLIGENCE CENTER (EPIC).

QUOTE MEXICAN TRAFFICKERS EXCHANGE HEROIN FOR WEAPONS.
LONG ISLAND'S NEWSPAPER QUOTE NEWSDAY UNQUOTE PUBLISHES
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G. O'CONNOR'S REPORT. NEW YORK, JAN 25 (AP). MEXICAN DRUG

TRAFFICKERS ARE EXCHANGING HEROIN FOR WEAPONS, THE LENGTH OF THE 3,200 KILOMETERS BORDER WITH UNITED STATES, IN ACCORDANCE WITH AN EXCLUSIVE REPORT WHICH NEWSDAY OF LONG ISLAND PUBLISHED TODAY.

QUOTE THE NEWSPAPER ATTRIBUTES TO GERALD O'CONNOR, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF DRUGS IN EL PASO, TEXAS, TO HAVE SAID THAT QUOTE THERE ARE AT LEAST TEN DIFFERENT REVOLUTIONARY GROUPS IMPLICATED IN THE EXCHANGE OF NARCOTICS FOR WEAPONS, UNQUOTE.

QUOTE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE REPORT, MEXICO PRODUCES 90 PERCENT OF THE HEROIN CONSUMED IN THE UNITED STATES AND 70 PERCENT OF THAT WHICH IS SOLD IN LONG ISLAND. QUOTE NEWSDAY UNQUOTE POINTS OUT THAT THE MAJORITY OF THE WEAPONS EXCHANGED FOR DRUGS, INCLUDING RUSSIAN MACHINE GUNS AK-47 AND OTHERS FROM CZECHOSLOVAKIA, HAVE BEEN CONFISCATED.

QUOTE MEXICO HAS VERY STRICT LAWS ON ARMS CONTROL AND THE ISSUANCE OF PERMITS FOR CARRYING ARMS IS HANDLED BY THE REGIONAL ARMY COMMANDANTS.

QUOTE AN EMPLOYEE OF THE NARCOTICS DEPT TOLD QUOTE NEWSDAY UNQUOTE THAT HEROIN TRADE QUOTE PENETRATES THE HIGHEST LEVELS OF THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT UNQUOTE.

QUOTE IT IS ESTIMATED THAT THERE ARE 10,000 HECTARES IN MEXICO DEDICATED TO THE ILLEGAL CULTIVATION OF THE OPIUM POPPY. THE MAJORITY OF THE FIELDS ARE SITUATED IN THE SIERRA MADRE MOUNTAINS AND PRODUCE BETWEEN 100 AND 110 TONS OF OPIUM, WHICH IS CONVERTED INTO HEROIN. UNQUOTE.

3. ACTION REQUESTED: OJEDA WAS VISIBLY INCENSED OVER THIS PUBLICATION ATTRIBUTED TO A USG OFFICIAL. MEXICAN AG COMMENTED THEY ARE BEGINNING TO PERCEIVE A CONSPIRACY DESIGNED TO DISCREDIT THE GOM NARCOTIC CONTROL EFFORTS AND SABOTAGE OUR COOPERATIVE BILATERAL EFFORT. WE WOULD APPRECIATE BACKGROUND OF NEWSDAY ARTICLE IN ORDER PUT MATTER IN BEST POSSIBLE PERSPECTIVE WITH OJEDA.

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